



Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Situation Update for the
Health and Wellbeing Board

18th January 2023

**Barking &
Dagenham**

one borough; one community; no one left behind

Key updates

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk, particularly to vulnerable populations. Coronavirus, in combination with other resurgent respiratory illnesses such as Influenza, continues to apply pressure to health services in the borough. Residents and visitors to the borough should stay cautious to help protect themselves and others.

- All-age case rates remain at low levels within Barking and Dagenham. From the 23rd December to 31st December, the boroughs all-age case rose marginally from 32.2 cases per 100k residents to 35.5 cases, which was just above the London average of 35.0 cases. 15 of the 32 London boroughs had a lower all-age case rate than Barking and Dagenham on 31st December. It should be noted that these low all-age case rates are being observed in an environment of historically low pillar 1 and 2 testing levels, particularly among lower age groups.
- From the 23rd December to 31st December, Barking and Dagenham's 60+ case rate rose from 92.7 cases per 100k residents to 132.0 cases, a 42.2% increase, meaning the boroughs 60+ case rate has an amber rag rating. Over the same period, the London 60+ case rate fell from 104.4 cases per 100k residents to 89.0 cases, a 14.8% decrease. The only London borough that has a higher 60+ case rate than Barking and Dagenham is Bexley, with a rate of 143.6 cases. Over the same period the 80+ age groups case rate spiked from 144.8 cases per 100k residents to 362.1 cases, the highest of any age group.
- The number of borough residents who took a PCR test in the week to 25th December 2022 was 436. 8.9% of those tested were positive for COVID-19. One year prior, in the week to 25th December 2021, 13,525 residents had taken a PCR test and 33.0% received a positive result for COVID-19.
- As the focus of vaccination efforts now centre around vulnerable groups such as carers, the elderly and the immunocompromised, these are the only groups in which vaccination rates are still increasing week on week. The Autumn booster coverage percentage for all borough residents aged 50 and over rose from 64.0% as of 23rd December to 64.1% as of the 31st December. The 80-84 year old group remained the group with the highest Autumn booster coverage with 82.5% of this age group having received an Autumn booster.
- December saw 4 Consecutive weekly increases in the number of patients in a BHRUT G&A hospital bed with COVID-19. On 1st December this number was 1, on 31st December the number had risen to 73, as winter pressures continue to strain health care services in the borough. During the same period, the number of patients in critical care rose from 1 to 2, with a peak in December of 6 patients. This number may rise as the effects of higher G&A bed occupancy filter through to critical care services.
- In the week to 23rd December, no death certificates issued in the borough mentioned COVID-19. The total number of deaths in the borough that week was 8.0 deaths below the 2015-19 average for the same week. Positive excess mortality has now been recorded in 22 of the first 51 weeks of 2022. There have been 682 COVID-19 related deaths in the borough since the start of the pandemic, including 4 deaths in December 2022.